SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 580

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Craig Fickling, president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts and diligent service to their fellow citizens,
have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Craig Fickling, 2020-2021 president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference (TDPDC), who has rendered sterling service during his presidential term; and

WHEREAS, as TDPDC president, Mr. Fickling has been the principal executive officer for supervising and controlling the business and affairs of the Conference while also assisting the Conference in advising the General Assembly regarding legislation to improve the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Craig Fickling has concurrently served as the district public defender for the 13th Judicial District, which includes Cumberland, Clay, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White counties, and has served the citizens of that district with distinction since his election in 2014; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election, he was engaged in private practice, first with Ronald Thurman and later with his wife, attorney Melaney Madewell Fickling; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fickling has represented clients in both civil and criminal matters, having tried cases in both State and federal courts throughout Tennessee, as well as having successfully argued cases before the Tennessee Court of Appeals, the Tennessee Court of

Criminal Appeals, the Tennessee Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; and

WHEREAS, Craig Fickling is an active member of the Thirteenth Judicial District
Recovery and Veterans Courts, working cooperatively with the bench and the District Attorney
General to assist those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction; and

WHEREAS, a respected leader in his field, Mr. Fickling is a member of the Tennessee and Putnam County bar associations, the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; he served on the Advisory Task Force on the Composition of Judicial Districts from 2018 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the boards of directors of Rural Legal Services, the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands, the Putnam County Rural Health Clinic, and the Cookeville Children's Museum: and

WHEREAS, born in Atlanta, Georgia, Craig Fickling currently resides in Cookeville; he is a graduate of Millsaps College and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the son of an Episcopal priest, Mr. Fickling has been an active member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Cookeville for many years, having served on the Church Vestry; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, Mr. Fickling has enjoyed the love and support of his wife and his son, Lee Fickling; and

WHEREAS, Craig Fickling epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Fickling for his dedication to serving the people of this State; now, therefore,

- 2 - 006962

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Craig Fickling, 2020-2021 president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference (TDPDC), as his exemplary term comes to a close, extending our best wishes for his continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.

- 3 - 006962